

RTC Minutes—March 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Jan Robertson, Region 10 Coordinator. Present were Michelle Tressel, Todd Prusha, Lisa Fry, Scott Drake, Gerry Beeler, Pat McGinty, and Marcel Kielkucki. Guests included Dave Brusard, Grant Wood AEA and Nicholas O'Brien, Mid-Prairie foreign language instructor. Absent members were Jackie Wellborn, Jed Petersen, Phil Meaney, Bill Lynch and Steve Ovel.

There were no additions to the agenda.

The minutes of the 6/6/12 and 9/5/12 meetings were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

Member reports:

Todd Prusha – Iowa Association of Community College Trustees representative.

At a meeting with the Department of Education, it was pointed out that the supplemental weighted funding for high schools offering ICN classes is much less than other classes that receives funding from the state.

Michelle Tressel – Iowa Public Television

Michelle highlighted a couple of the upcoming K-12 Connections ICN presentations.

Taking Flight – explores the science of flight

Iowa Capitol Virtual Tour – an interactive virtual tour of the Iowa State Capitol. They will explore the 118 year old building from the sub-basement to the golden dome.

Mandatory Reporter Training for Suspected Child and Dependent Adult Abuse – This training and completion certificate meet the requirement of the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners for licensure.

Pat McGinty - Iowa Communications Network

Pat is replacing Ric Lumbard in this assignment as Ric has moved to another position with ICN.

Pat noted that the e-Rate funding filing deadline is close.

Schools were recently offered to increase their bandwidth at no charge and the majority chose to increase their bandwidth and data. The 1 to 1 program in Iowa is expanding at a high rate which makes for a high demand on bandwidth.

There isn't an end date for ICN rooms to be converted to the 323 video delivery. The early adopters have found they don't need the "press to talk" mics and the video is HD.

Marcel Kielkucki – Secondary Programs

Marcel reported that the High School Distance Learning classes at Kirkwood are showing a large increase from previous years.

He has been appointed to the Virtual Education Research Alliance which is a group of educators in Iowa and Wisconsin. This alliance has two main goals: (1) to develop the capacity for Wisconsin and Iowa to collect and use data to implement effective high school virtual programs that have successful student outcomes and (2) to develop and carry out a research agenda that focuses on student achievement and virtual learning conditions. For more info, go to

<http://www.relmidwest.org/VirtualLearningResearchAlliance.php>

They will be developing a survey for the Department of Ed to determine how much online learning in K-12s there are in the state and how mentors are being used with these online courses.

The current GED tests will expire on December 13, 2013 and if all 5 tests aren't completed by that date, then the students will need to start over with the new computer based testing format. KCRG television highlighted this change in their local broadcast.

Marcel also noted that NPR has been following several students who have completed their GED testing and will broadcast a program documenting their efforts scheduled for late summer/early fall.

Jan Robertson – Region 10 Coordinator/Educational Scheduler

ICN expects the RTC appropriation to be included in an Administration/Regulation bill in the legislature. The requested appropriation was the same as last year.

The RFP was released to bidders on February 6th. The response deadline is April 30, 2013 however, this is a bill moving through the legislature to extend the response deadline to July 31, 2013.

ICN introduced its public-facing website with the new url of www.icn.iowa.gov. This was in response to Gov. Brandstad's Executive order that all state government websites have a similar navigation structure.

Lisa Fry introduced Dave Brouard, Grant Wood AEA Director of Information Technology. He reviewed how Grant Wood AEA assists local school districts with their planning and troubleshooting for internet and data for local area networks. It was noted that most schools have changed the direction of their tech directors away from the actual networking to classroom technology implementation.

The areas that they assist schools with are:

1. To design and implement local and wide area computer/data networks.
2. Assist educational institutions in reviewing vendor proposals to install and maintain local and wide area networks.
3. Train educational institution personnel in simple troubleshooting techniques for computer networks and provide troubleshooting assistance for more complex problems.
4. Work with educational institutions to design and review vendor proposals for individual purchase of management software, programming software, telecommunication software for implementing and using local and wide area networks.
5. Development of LAN/WAN support and related aggregated services for regional K-12 schools.

Dave related that they do have a software program called OpNet that can look at network travel at individual school districts to help diagnose bandwidth issues. They can tell if it is high usage of YouTube, Pandora, or even in the case of last year when everyone was watching the Decorah eagles.

Marcel introduced Nicholas O'Brien who is the Chinese foreign language teacher at Mid-Prairie school and is currently teaching an Iowa Learning Online Chinese I class to 8 students throughout eastern Iowa. They are meeting on ICN at 7:00 am on Mondays/Wednesdays and Fridays and are using the Angel learning management system on other days. Alan Peterka, Instructional designer in the Kirkwood Distance Learning department was Nicholas' instructor

while at the University of Iowa and they have worked together to develop online content for this class. An accelerated course will be offered this summer so they would be able to take Chinese II in the fall. The planned ICN schedule for fall would be Chinese I on Monday/Wednesday and Friday with Chinese II on Tuesday/Thursdays. Nicholas teaches a K-10 Chinese program at Mid-Prairie.

Gerry Beeler who represents the School Administrators of Iowa will be retiring at the end of June. He has served on the RTC 10 council since March, 2007. We thank him for his years of service and wish him well.

Next meeting will be tentatively June 5, 3:30-5:00 pm (Depending on RTC 10 funding confirmation from ICN for the budget vote)

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Robertson,
RTC Coordinator